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General Assembly
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Sixtieth session
Agenda item 19
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Letter dated 9 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 8 May 2006 addressed to you by Reşat Çağlar, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, forwarding the letter of Mehmet Ali Talat, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and Mr. Talat's letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki **İlkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

06-34226 (E) 110506

Annex to the letter dated 9 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey herewith a letter dated 8 May 2006 addressed to you by Mehmet Ali Talat, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see enclosure).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Reşat **Çağlar**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure

We have been waiting for some time to establish a fruitful dialogue with the Greek Cypriot side with the purpose of launching a renewed phase of fully-fledged negotiations under your auspices for the comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem. We were, therefore, astonished and dismayed with the remarks recently made by the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Tassos Papadopoulos, in his interview published in the French magazine *L'Express* dated 4 May 2006.

In his interview, among other things, he stated that "We (the Greek Cypriots) categorically reject a State that would have two distinctive zones and two types of communal structures (*Nous refusons catégoriquement un Etat qui comporterait deux zones distinctes et deux types de structures communales*)". This unfortunate remark of the Greek Cypriot leadership clearly contradicts the settlement parameters set in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, the conclusions of the 1977-1979 Summit meetings agreed on between the leaders of the two sides, as well as the parameters established in four-decades-old negotiations carried out between the two parties under the auspices of the United Nations Secretaries-General. Furthermore, it also runs counter to the expressed will of the international community, and particularly to that of the European Union, which on numerous occasions underlined its full support for a settlement in Cyprus under the auspices of the United Nations and on the basis of a bizonal, bicommunal federation.

It is most disappointing that such a statement came at a time when the United Nations is working diligently to improve the current atmosphere in the island with the establishment of technical committees between the two parties. The establishment of these committees was also aimed at preparing the ground for meaningful negotiations for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem by building confidence between the two sides, which has been greatly damaged with the Greek Cypriot rejection of the Annan plan, and more importantly, as a result of the uncompromising policies that the Greek Cypriot leadership followed thereafter.

This statement also confirms the fact that it was not a slip of tongue when the Greek Cypriot leader stated before the United Nations General Assembly on 18 September 2005 (see A/60/PV.11) that he envisaged a solution in Cyprus through "osmosis", meaning the integration of the Turkish Cypriot people to the "Republic of Cyprus" by means of assimilation.

I believe that the prospect for a settlement in Cyprus, which unfortunately is already not promising owing to the lack of political will on the part of the Greek Cypriot leadership, will be further and seriously damaged if the parties interested in the settlement of the Cyprus problem continue to remain silent in the face of such provocative and counterproductive statements made by the Greek Cypriot leadership.

In concluding, I would like to reiterate, once again, the firm commitment of the Turkish Cypriot side to the settlement of the Cyprus problem under the auspices of your good offices mission and on the basis of the Annan plan.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehmet Ali **Talat**
President

United Nations S/2006/287

Security Council

Distr.: General
9 May 2006

Original: English

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions and the statements of its President concerning the situation in Somalia, in particular resolution 733 (1992) of 23 January 1992, which established an embargo on all delivery of weapons and military equipment to Somalia (hereinafter referred to as the "arms embargo"), resolution 1519 (2003) of 16 December 2003, resolution 1558 (2004) of 17 August 2004, resolution 1587 (2005) of 15 March 2005 and resolution 1630 (2005) of 14 October 2005,

Reaffirming the importance of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia,

Reiterating the urgent need for all Somali leaders to take tangible steps to continue political dialogue,

Reiterating its strong support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General,

Stressing the need for the Transitional Federal Institutions to continue working towards establishing effective national governance in Somalia,

Commending the efforts of the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in support of the Transitional Federal Institutions and welcoming the African Union's continued support for national reconciliation in Somalia,

Taking note of the report of the Monitoring Group dated 5 April 2006 (S/2006/229, annex) submitted pursuant to paragraph 3 (i) of resolution 1630 (2005) and the observations and recommendations contained therein,

Condemning the significant increase in the flow of weapons and ammunition supplies to and through Somalia, which constitutes a violation of the arms embargo and a serious threat to the Somali peace process,

Concerned about the increasing incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in waters off the coast of Somalia, and its impact on security in Somalia,

Reiterating its insistence that all Member States, in particular those in the region, should refrain from any action in contravention of the arms embargo and should take all necessary steps to hold violators accountable,

06-34391 (E) 100506

Reiterating and *underscoring* the importance of enhancing the monitoring of the arms embargo in Somalia through persistent and vigilant investigation into the violations, bearing in mind that strict enforcement of the arms embargo will improve the overall security situation in Somalia,

Determining that the situation in Somalia constitutes a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Stresses* the obligation of all Member States to comply fully with the measures imposed by resolution 733 (1992);

2. *Expresses* its intention, in light of the report of the Monitoring Group dated 5 April 2006 (S/2006/229, annex), to consider specific actions to improve implementation of and compliance with measures imposed by resolution 733 1992);

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) of 24 April 1992 (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee"), to re-establish within thirty days from the date of the adoption of this resolution, and for a period of six months, the Monitoring Group referred to in paragraph 3 of resolution 1558 (2004), with the following mandate:

(a) to continue the tasks outlined in paragraphs 3 (a) to (c) of resolution 1587 (2005);

(b) to continue to investigate, in coordination with relevant international agencies, all activities, including in the financial, maritime and other sectors, which generate revenues used to commit arms embargo violations;

(c) to continue to investigate any means of transport, routes, seaports, airports and other facilities used in connection with arms embargo violations;

(d) to continue refining and updating information on the draft list of those individuals and entities who violate the measures implemented by Member States in accordance with resolution 733 (1992), inside and outside Somalia, and their active supporters, for possible future measures by the Council, and to present such information to the Committee as and when the Committee deems appropriate;

(e) to continue making recommendations based on its investigations, on the previous reports of the Panel of Experts (S/2003/223 and S/2003/1035) appointed pursuant to resolutions 1425 (2002) of 22 July 2002 and 1474 (2003) of 8 April 2003, and on the previous reports of the Monitoring Group (S/2004/604, S/2005/153, S/2005/625 and S/2006/229) appointed pursuant to resolutions 1519 (2003) of 16 December 2003, 1558 (2004) of 17 August 2004, 1587 (2005) of 15 March 2005 and 1630 (2005) of 14 October 2005;

(f) to work closely with the Committee on specific recommendations for additional measures to improve overall compliance with the arms embargo;

(g) to assist in identifying areas where the capacities of States in the region can be strengthened to facilitate the implementation of the arms embargo;

(h) to provide to the Council, through the Committee, a midterm briefing within 90 days from its establishment;

(i) to submit, for the Security Council's consideration, through the Committee, a final report covering all the tasks set out above, no later than 15 days prior to the termination of the Monitoring Group's mandate;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to make the necessary financial arrangements to support the work of the Monitoring Group;

5. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 4, 5, 7, 8 and 10 of resolution 1519 (2003);

6. *Requests* the Committee, in accordance with its mandate and in consultation with the Monitoring Group and other relevant United Nations entities, to consider the recommendations in the report of the Monitoring Group dated 5 April 2006 and recommend to the Council ways to improve implementation of and compliance with the arms embargo, in response to continuing violations;

7. *Further* requests the Committee to consider, when appropriate, a visit to Somalia and/or the region by its Chairman and those he may designate, as approved by the Committee, to demonstrate the Security Council's determination to give full effect to the arms embargo;

8. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2006/288

Security Council

Distr.: General
10 May 2006
English
Original: French

Letter dated 8 May 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to transmit to you the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 31 March 2006 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring this communication to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

06-34397 (E) 110506 120506

Annex

[Original: English]

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. This report covers the period from 1 to 31 March 2006.

2. As at 31 March 2006, the total number of troops in theatre was 16,083, which includes 2,741 troops from non-NATO countries.

3. Mongolia no longer contributes to the Kosovo Force (KFOR). The Mongolian platoon, deployed to KFOR as part of the Belgian contingent, departed on 23 March 2006.

Security

4. The overall security situation in Kosovo remains tense owing to the ongoing future status talks, the reshuffling of the Kosovo Government, the high unemployment rate, and the inability of the power company to provide sufficient electricity for the province. In addition, the directive of the Coordination Centre for Kosovo on the double salaries issue has a potential for raising tensions between the Kosovo-Serbs and the Kosovo-Albanians and, to a lesser extent, among Kosovo-Serbs themselves. The second anniversary of the riots of March 2004 passed without incident. The people of Kosovo continue to monitor the developments at the level of the status talks and expectations of results may affect stability at critical junctures in the process. The international community's active involvement in the negotiation process may help to maintain stability in Kosovo in the interim. Levels of propaganda in Belgrade and Pristina have increased and both sides are using recent events to show dissatisfaction with the current situation in Kosovo.

5. During the reporting period there was a slight increase in the number of incidents. The overall situation remains tense. Further violence is likely to escalate as the status talks progress.

6. No incidents were recorded against KFOR.

7. A total of 408 incidents relating to unexploded ordnance, illegal weapons possession, weapons and ammunition findings, human trafficking, drugs and counterfeit currency were reported during the past month. Weapons seizures made up the vast majority of incidents during the month. In the previous month 297 incidents were reported. This represents a 37 per cent increase in related incidents within one month and 133 per cent within two months.

8. KFOR continues operations to prevent ethnic violence and protect patrimonial sites and remains vigilant to deter possible threats directed against international organizations and military bases. The Force continues to improve its crowd and riot control capabilities in order to be better prepared to counter any resurgence in violence.

Compliance by the Federal Army of Serbia and Montenegro and the Ministry of Internal Affairs Special Police

9. During March 2006 there were no cases of non-compliance.

Kosovo Protection Corps

10. The main focus for the KFOR Inspectorate for the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) in March 2006 has been the coordination and preparation of KFOR training to KPC, the evaluation of the Kosovo-wide roll call and the implementation of an extended reporting system.

11. The KPC personnel establishment list includes 3,014 active members; 184 of them are minorities (6.1%), of which 34 are Ashkali, 3 Roma, 10 Egyptian, 13 Croat, 26 Bosniac, 14 Muslim, 35 Turkish, 3 Goran and 45 Serb. The percentage of minorities in KPC is still far from the 10 per cent target (Standard 8). At the moment, 38 slots on the personnel establishment list are empty. The reserve list contains 2,000 positions, of which 1,883 are filled (including 40 from ethnic minorities).

12. Sixteen KPC colonels graduated from the five-week KPC colonel's course at Tradoc on 31 March 2006. Sixteen out of 52 colonels are now trained. Scheduling for the next colonel's course is being coordinated.

13. From 5 to 7 March 2006 the Adem Jashari Days were celebrated. A total of 2,045 KPC members and 20,000 civilians took part in this ceremony in a peaceful manner at many different sites throughout Kosovo.

Conclusion

14. The overall situation in Kosovo continues to be tense. The status talks, political instability, natural disasters, and electrical supply problems have affected the population of Kosovo throughout the winter period. As the status process continues, ethnic tension may rise. The threat against UNMIK and other international community facilities remains medium. The threat against KFOR is low.

United Nations S/2006/289

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 May 2006

Original: English

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Reaffirming all its previous resolutions and statements pertaining to the situation between Ethiopia and Eritrea (hereinafter referred to as "the parties"), and the requirements contained therein, including in particular resolutions 1640 of 23 November 2005, 1661 of 14 March 2006 and 1670 of 13 April 2006, as well as the statement of its President of 24 February 2006 (S/PRST/2006/10),

Stressing its unwavering commitment to the peace process, and to the full and expeditious implementation of the Algiers Agreements,

Bearing in mind the progress achieved in the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) meeting on 10 March 2006 in London and *looking forward* to a positive outcome in the next EEBC meeting on 17 May 2006,

1. *Decides* to extend the current mandate of United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) until 31 May 2006;

2. *Demands* that the parties fully comply with resolution 1640 (2005), in particular paragraphs 1 and 5;

3. *Calls* once again on Member States to provide continued support for UNMEE and contributions to the Trust Fund established in support of the demarcation process;

4. *Decides*, in the event it determines that the parties have not demonstrated full compliance with resolution 1640 (2005), in the light of the outcome of the EEBC meeting on 17 May 2006, that it shall adjust the mandate and troop level of UNMEE by the end of May 2006;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the parties' compliance with resolution 1640 (2005) within seven days of the adoption of this resolution, and to provide to the Council any further recommendations on adjusting UNMEE to focus on support for the demarcation process;

6. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

06-34892 (E) 150506

United Nations S/2006/290

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 May 2006

Original: English

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its relevant resolutions on the situation in Timor-Leste, in particular its resolution 1599 (2005) of 28 April 2005,

Expressing its deep concern over the 28/29 April incidents as well as the ensuing situation, and *acknowledging* the actions of the Government of Timor-Leste to establish an investigation into the incidents, their effects and causes,

Remaining fully committed to the promotion of long-lasting stability in Timor-Leste,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL) until 20 June 2006;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Council by 6 June 2006 with an update on the situation in Timor-Leste and the role of the United Nations in Timor-Leste following the expiration of the mandate of UNOTIL with a view to taking further action on the subject;

3. *Encourages* the Government and other State institutions of Timor-Leste, with the assistance from UNOTIL within its current mandate, to address the causes of the violence in order to prevent a recurrence of such incidents;

4. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

06-34726 (E) 120506

United Nations S/2006/291

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 May 2006
English
Original: French

Letter dated 10 May 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter addressed to you from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mr. Mohamed ElBaradei (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring this communication to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

06-34513 (E) 120506 120506

Annex

Letter dated 9 May 2006 from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

In paragraph 16 of Security Council resolution 1051 (1996), the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was requested to submit consolidated progress reports every six months to the Council, commencing on 11 April 1996, on the verification activities of IAEA in Iraq pursuant to paragraphs 12 and 13 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and related resolutions.

Since 17 March 2003, IAEA has not been in a position to implement its mandate in Iraq under Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and related resolutions.

The number of IAEA staff assigned to follow the situation in Iraq is being maintained at a minimum level, reflecting the current level of headquarters activities being implemented pursuant to the relevant Security Council resolutions.

During the period covered by this report, IAEA has further developed its archive system for the storage and retrieval of information collected and generated by IAEA in the course of its activities in Iraq. Satellite imagery of the most significant sites continues to be collected and assessed.

States may recall that items listed in annex 3 of the IAEA ongoing monitoring and verification plan (see S/2001/561) are to be reported to IAEA both by Iraq and by States that either export to or import from Iraq such items, in accordance with the export-import mechanism approved by the Security Council in resolution 1051 (1996). Pursuant to the ongoing monitoring and verification plan, Iraq is expected to declare semi-annually changes that have occurred or are foreseen at sites deemed relevant by IAEA. During the past six months, no reports have been received by IAEA from Iraq or other States in this regard.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the present letter to be distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohamed **ElBaradei**

United Nations S/2006/292

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 May 2006

Original: English

Letter dated 27 April 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on access for humanitarian operations in Darfur, issued on 7 April 2006 by the Presidency on behalf on the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gerhard **Pfanzelter**
Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations

06-34597 (E) 150506

Annex to the letter dated 27 April 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on access for humanitarian operations in Darfur issued on 7 April 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union notes with concern that in recent days representatives of the international community, and most recently the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Egeland, were not authorized by the Government of the Sudan to visit Darfur.

The humanitarian situation in Darfur requires sustained action by the international community. The Under-Secretary-General has a crucial role to play in that respect.

The European Union is committed to providing adequate support and funding for humanitarian activities. It recalls the need for humanitarian actors in the field to be given free access by all actors concerned.

The Government of the Sudan has a clear obligation to work with the United Nations and non-governmental organizations and we urge it to do so with all humanitarian agencies operating in Darfur.

The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Croatia,* the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the stabilization and association process.

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Security Council

Distr.: General
11 May 2006

Original: English

Letter dated 5 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement concerning the Darfur talks, issued on 4 May 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gerhard **Pfanzelter**
Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations

06-34591 (E) 150506

Annex to the letter dated 5 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement concerning the Darfur talks issued on 4 May 2006 by the Presidency on behalf on the European Union

The European Union commends the African Union and the Sudanese parties negotiating in Abuja for the progress achieved towards a peace agreement to settle the conflict in Darfur.

It welcomes the African Union mediation's draft agreement, which it regards as constituting a good basis for a settlement. It welcomes the Sudanese Government's acceptance of that draft. It calls on SLM/A and JEM to reach a final agreement with the Sudanese Government along the lines of the mediation's draft, without further exceeding the deadline set by the African Union.

Failing to do so would be irresponsible in the light of the immense human suffering of the people in Darfur, and any party standing in the way of an agreement would have to face the consequences outlined in Security Council resolution 1591 (2005).

The European Union expresses its commitment to support the implementation of an agreement reached in Abuja, including by contributing to the enhancement of AMIS and by supporting the Darfur-Darfur dialogue and post-conflict reconstruction.

The European Union expresses grave concern about the serious fighting currently occurring in Darfur, which is in contradiction with the positive spirit of the Abuja talks. The European Union reiterates its strong condemnation of all ceasefire violations and in particular attacks on civilians and humanitarian agencies. It urges the Government of the Sudan and the leaders of SLM/A and JEM to take the necessary steps to ensure that the N'Djamena ceasefire is strictly respected by all forces they claim to have under their control, and to fully cooperate with AMIS.

The European Union believes it to be essential for the transition from AMIS to a United Nations operation in Darfur to happen as quickly as possible. The European Union expresses its concern at the continued failure of the Sudanese Government to allow the visit of the United Nations planning team and calls on it to do so straight away.

The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Croatia,* the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this statement.

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* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the stabilization and association process.

United Nations S/2006/294

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 May 2006
English
Original: French

Letter dated 2 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to draw your attention to the human rights violations committed by French troops of the Licorne against members of the Ivorian Defence and Security Forces (FDS), on which I reported on 12 April 2006 to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire.

Regarding the incident that occurred between our FDS forces and the French Licorne forces on 26 February 2006 in Zouan-Hounien, I reported on the cruel and degrading treatment inflicted on seven of our soldiers, allegedly for entering the zone of confidence. They were arrested, stripped, bound, and left sitting in the sun for nearly eight hours, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the only sustenance they received from their torturers was some warm water.

It should be recalled that, under the terms of the various resolutions creating the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), one of the main tasks of the Blue Helmets is to ensure that they observe human rights in all their activities, the ultimate objective being to help restore peace and stability and strengthen the rule of law in my country.

As you can see, the events referred to in my report are extremely serious. If there is no reaction from the Council, one of whose chief concerns has been to combat impunity, this is likely to encourage further such incidents, which obstruct the peace process. Furthermore, such silence could give the impression that the condemnation of human rights violations depends on the nationality of the presumed perpetrators.

You will find herewith for your information a copy of the map that the Secretary-General annexed to his eighth report on Côte d'Ivoire (S/2006/222). The map shows clearly that the department of Zouan-Hounien (which includes the town of Bouénneu) lies squarely within the zone under government control, pursuant to Code 14, article 3, which stipulates that "if a town is intersected by one of the boundaries of the zone of confidence, it falls outside the zone", and that the radius of the circle arc shall be set at 2 kilometres from the last houses of the town.

06-34603 (E) 240506 240506

A copy of my statement of 12 April 2006 is also enclosed herewith (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Philippe **Djangoné-Bi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 2 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement made on 12 April 2006 by Mr. Philippe Djangoné-Bi to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire, following allegations of misconduct by members of the National Armed Forces of Côte d'Ivoire

I wish at the outset to thank you for allowing me to come before the Committee to respond to your request for clarification from the authorities of Côte d'Ivoire on the following points:

1. The incident between the Defence and Security Forces (FDS)[a] and the Licorne;

2. The incident between the FDS and the population of Bouénneu;

3. The alleged incitement to hatred and violence by some of the media.

The incident between the Ivorian FDS and the Licorne forces occurred as a result of the signal lack of communication between the different troops whose mission should be always to search for compromise and therefore peace in general. What really happened?

Everything began on Saturday, 25 February 2006, with an aerial display by the Licorne in the skies over the town of Zouan-Hounien, situated at the northern boundary of the government zone. These manoeuvres, which began in the afternoon, ended at midnight. After that, all was calm and no incident was reported until the morning of Sunday, 26 February.

At 9 a.m. on Sunday, 26 February, the Licorne resumed its aerial manoeuvres. With a view to enquiring about the reason for the manoeuvres, an Ivorian officer, chief of the security detachment for this buffer town and its suburbs, including the village of Bouénneu, went to the post of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) situated one kilometre further north. It should be noted that a detachment from Bangladesh is in charge of the post. The Ivorian officer got no information.

At 9:30 p.m., the Licorne ended its manoeuvres. However, information began coming in that there had been a siege of the village of Bouénneu, located about 800 metres from the town of Zouan-Hounien in the government zone, where the sub-prefect was an FDS officer.

An FDS detachment immediately went to Bouénneu to demand that the Licorne withdraw from the village because it had failed to give advance notice to the FDS authorities responsible for the sector. The Licorne patrol, having apparently strayed off course, complied.

On Monday, 27 February 2006, the aerial manoeuvres by the Licorne intensified. The townspeople and the FDS were in a quandary and became concerned, remembering that members of the Licorne had in the past been

[a] The defence and security forces (FDS) comprise the military forces of the National Armed Forces of Côte d'Ivoire (FANCI) and the paramilitary forces of the police and customs officials, tactically combined to defend the territorial integrity of Côte d'Ivoire.

responsible, as confirmed by their own authorities, for the murder by suffocation of an unarmed Ivorian civilian, precisely in the western part of the country (the Mahé case).

At 9 a.m., the FDS sectoral command sent out a patrol in order to clarify the situation. The patrol was intercepted by the Licorne. The Ivorian soldiers, seven of them, were disarmed, stripped, bound, and then left sitting in the sun from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The only sustenance they were given was some warm water.

Seeing that their comrades did not return, the Ivorian military sent a second patrol, led by an officer. It was not easy for them to approach the Licorne troops. In fact, the officer and his detachment were able to make contact with a French officer, a Licorne captain, only after they had put their hands up and laid down their weapons. There was a tense exchange between them, because the FDS men wanted to leave with their comrades. The French officer, clearly nervous, ordered the FDS detachment to return to its base if it did not want to meet the same fate as the others he was holding. The Ivorian patrol withdrew, without giving in to the provocation.

Around 5.15 p.m., the French officer and his men came to where the Ivorian detachment had taken up position, without the seven detained soldiers. Their equipment, however, was returned in visibly bad condition. The Ivorian soldiers, seeing the damaged equipment and the fact that their comrades were not there, expressed their displeasure and demanded their release.

Sometime later, another Licorne detachment showed up at the FDS base together with the seven soldiers detained since ten in the morning. The FDS men saw this as an opportune moment to detain the French soldiers now in turn. Shortly after 6 p.m., the FDS and the Licorne troops separated.

On Wednesday, 1 March 2006, when it appeared that calm had been restored 48 hours earlier, another Licorne detachment, to everyone's surprise, burst into Zouan-Hounien and positioned itself in the FDS base.

The first FDS soldiers were overpowered and bound. The others were ordered to take off their uniforms and move away from their weapons. Panicked by this new show of force by the Licorne, the people fled the town.

Thirty minutes later, the Licorne troops withdrew with a promise to return, because according to them Zouan-Hounien lay inside the zone of confidence. From then on, calm reigned in the town and its surroundings, a calm punctuated by several organized efforts by the military and civilian authorities, to explain and placate.

Allow me to proceed to the second point in your letter, alleging that atrocities were committed against the civilian populations of Bouénneu by elements of the Defence and Security Forces.

Yes, these incidents, which are on the whole regrettable and have been exaggerated by a certain gutter press, did indeed occur but on an extremely small scale. More importantly, they did not involve the use of firearms.

After the clandestine occupation of the village by the Licorne, soldiers from the FDS detachment in charge of the security of the village apparently failed to correctly assess the silence and, especially the apathy, of the population, which was supposed to provide them with additional information. It should be noted that the

crisis brought the two sides — the FDS and the population — much closer together; thus, the dispute could be said to be "a quarrel between friends".

The scuffles between soldiers and villagers, particularly youth, led to a pitched battle, resulting in casualties among villagers and soldiers alike.

On hearing about them, the Military Governor, the prefect of the region and the sub-prefect of Zouan-Houien, reported to the site and calmed everyone down. This unfortunate behaviour by the military towards a population it was supposed to be protecting was condemned not only by the military hierarchy, which immediately dismissed and arrested those involved, but also by the President of the Republic, the Governor of National Reconciliation and all political parties.

Today, peace missions led by the highest-ranking military and political authorities heard the population's grievances against the Defence and Security Forces, which apparently did not do enough to protect them when nearby villages were attacked by assailants, confirming our "quarrel between friends" hypothesis.

To bring closure to this unfortunate incident, a pardon and reconciliation ceremony was held on Saturday, 8 April 2006 between the villagers and the soldiers, in the presence of the top military and civilian authorities of the region and a UNOCI delegation (cf. *Fraternité matin* of 12 April 2006 and *Notre voie* of 12 April 2006).

The third point in my statement will concern what your letter refers to as an incitement to hatred, violence and intolerance by some of the media.

In the absence of hard and irrefutable evidence to substantiate this claim, it is difficult to give credence to it. In any event, I can assure you that every effort is being made to finalize the peace process, which should result in credible general elections. Systematic campaigns for peace and national reconciliation are being conducted at all levels, including by the Office of the President of the Republic, the Government, political parties, non-governmental organizations and civil society.

You will thus find among the documents that we have distributed to you copies of pages from an appointment book with entries by the President of the Republic, which has been circulated free of charge to all citizens in all sectors of society. In it you will see some powerful slogans in support of peace, for example, "renounce violence"; "bring together brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of the same nation"; "gather the Ivorians around unity and reconciliation"; "raise awareness of our country's assets and thus the true stakes of peace". These are the goals of this campaign, in the hope that the strong values it conveys will help to calm the rancour and bring each of us, each one in turn, to take another step towards peace.

This campaign by the President of the Republic is also promoted by the national radio and television station and the written press and through posters. The national radio and television stations feature spots throughout their broadcasts, at their own expense, calling on political parties and other organizations to refrain from incitement to hatred or exclusionary speeches, as such material will not be aired. The Radiodiffusion Télévision ivoirienne (RTI) broadcast over the Internet (www.telediaspora.net, www.rti.ci) should leave no doubt as to the security of the position.

Furthermore, the audiovisual press in our country is monitored by a highly professional oversight entity (National Council of Audiovisual Communication) (CNCA). Where, then, is the sanctions committee finding these hatred speeches that it refers to in its letter?

The President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the Prime Minister and the Government of National Reconciliation, on whose behalf I am addressing you, are not ashamed to tell the world to its face that in Côte d'Ivoire, the peace process launched with the help of the international community is most definitely irreversible. The dirty war that shrouded our country in gloom, with, alas, the support of outside interests, as acknowledged in a United Nations report, will soon be but a bad memory.

With your permission, and in the light of the above account of the facts as they occurred in the western part of my country, I now wish to draw your attention to some observations for your further consideration.

First observation

The incident between FDS and Licorne appears, in our view, to have been intentionally provoked by the Licorne, which decided to carry out manoeuvres in a section where UNOCI forces, namely, a detachment from Bangladesh with which FDS is on good terms, are already stationed.

It is worth noting that there are practically no incidents between FDS and UNOCI, which are respectful of our national sovereignty. Thus, for the sake of peace, and in view of the reality on the ground, it is high time to grant the request made to the United Nations on numerous occasions for a single command of all the international forces in Côte d'Ivoire in order to avoid repeated incidents between FDS and Licorne.

Does our common Organization, the United Nations, find it acceptable that a party to a conflict, namely, the above-mentioned incident, should also serve on the committee in charge of resolving it? Is it possible to be judge and party to the dispute at the same time?

Second observation

The demarcation of the various zones of competence has been determined by a code known as "Code 14" familiar to all military staff present in the country: UNOCI, Forces nouvelles, FDS and the Licorne.

Article 3 of this Code provides that "if a town is intersected by the boundary of a zone of confidence, the said town falls outside the zone. The radius of the arc shall be set at 2 kilometres from the last houses of the town". The location of the village of Bouénneu in relation to Zouan-Hounien poses no problem. Bouénneu is unquestionably in the government zone, as you can see on the map of the area. Even if it were not, the question should be settled through dialogue and not by violence or attacks on our national sovereignty.

Third observation

Following the above-mentioned incident, a tripartite meeting (UNOCI, FDS, Licorne) was held on 2 March 2006. The facts we presented in our report and the

remarks made by the participants were not disputed by the representatives of the Licorne, who hid behind resolution 1633 (2005), as if it absolved them from having a good working relationship with our national armed forces.

Like the other resolutions on Côte d'Ivoire, resolution 1633 (2005) reaffirms "its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of Côte d'Ivoire". How, then, can it be acceptable for elements of the Defence and Security Forces to be arrested, disarmed, stripped and subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment in their own country?

Furthermore, what good does it do to implement this resolution — a resolution that no one disputes — if, in its application on the ground, there is no organization respected by all, no consensus, no courtesy or mutual respect?

Fourth observation

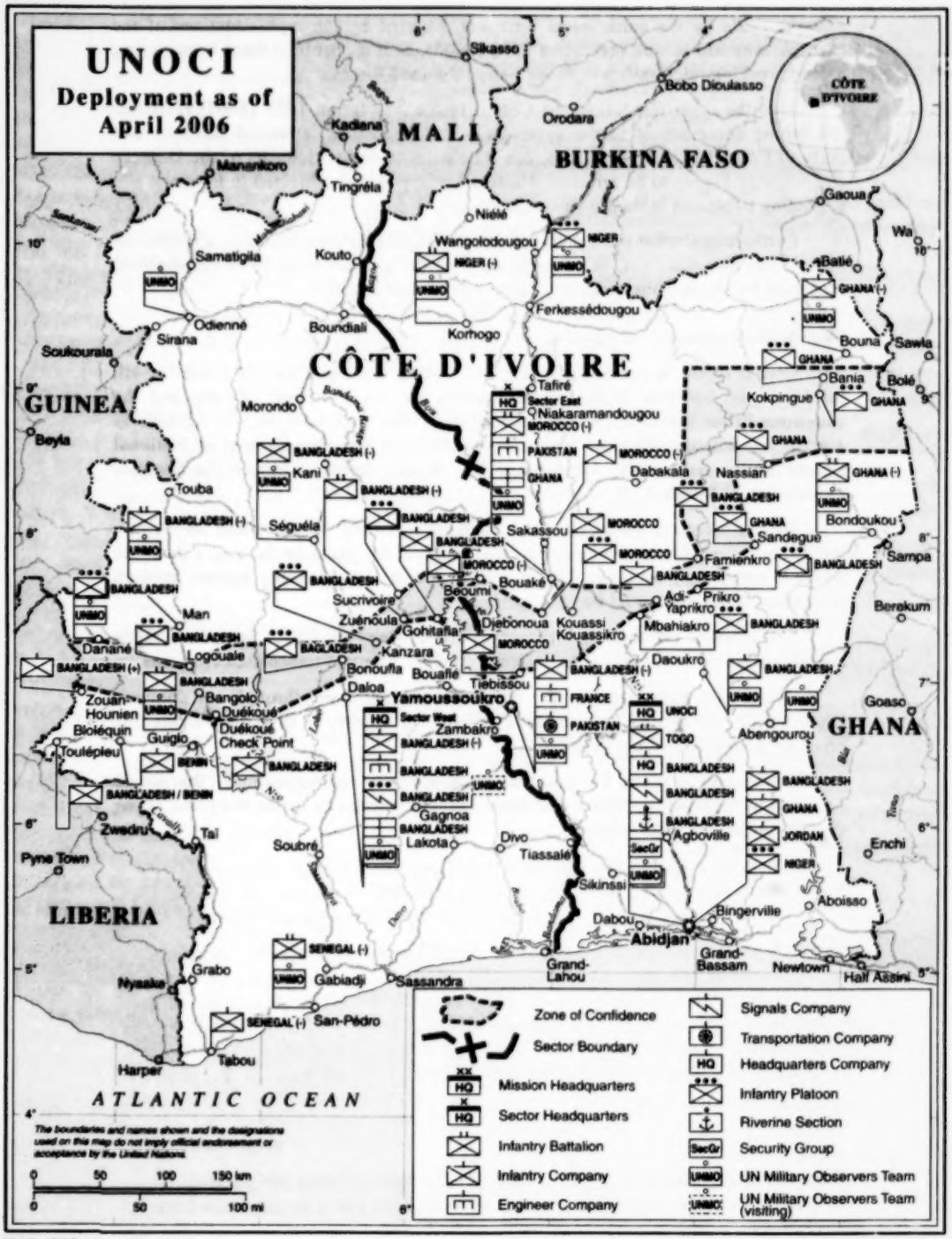
Côte d'Ivoire is on the right track to ending the crisis for once and for all, thanks to the concrete decisions taken every day by President Gbagbo and the consensus Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny, who, from now on, will function as a team. Indeed, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Government of National Reconciliation deliberately emphasized this in his statement before the Security Council on 29 March 2006.

We are therefore surprised that incitement to hatred, violence and intolerance is still being mentioned without any indication of the facts or the exact dates on which it supposedly occurred. This is clearly a distortion of reality and we have no idea what its purpose could be.

The Ivorians are tired of this useless crisis. Many initiatives have been taken and all are aimed at being able to organize credible, fair and transparent elections.

The efforts undertaken by the international community through our common Organization, the United Nations, have enabled my country to carry on, despite this crisis, as a model for the subregion.

I appeal, once again, for your assistance and your understanding so that we do not yield to the wishes of those who have a hidden interest in seeing the crisis in our country prolonged indefinitely.



Map No. 4220 Rev. 10 UNITED NATIONS
April 2006

Department of Peacekeeping Operations
Cartographic Section

United Nations S/2006/295

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 May 2006

Original: English

Letter dated 11 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the People's Republic of China in April 2006 (see annex). This assessment has been prepared under my own responsibility following consultations with other members of the Council.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Wang** Guangya
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 11 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of China (April 2006)

Introduction

Under the presidency of the People's Republic of China in April 2006, the Security Council addressed a wide range of issues on its agenda, including Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea and Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Western Sahara, Iraq, the Middle East, Lebanon, Bosnia and Herzegovina, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

During the Chinese presidency, the Security Council held 25 meetings and 15 sessions of consultations of the whole. Eight resolutions and five presidential statements were adopted. The President also made four statements to the press on behalf of the Council.

On 4 April, the President briefed the press on the programme of work of the Council for the month. Through its website (www.china-un.org), the presidency published in a regular and timely manner the programme of work as well as activities carried out by the Council in April.

Africa

Côte d'Ivoire

On 17 April, the Council held an informal consultation on Côte d'Ivoire. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Pierre Schori, introducing the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2006/222), briefed the Council on the latest developments in the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire. He indicated that some encouraging prospects for advancing the peace process had emerged recently as a result of initiatives taken by the Prime Minister, Charles Konan Banny, with the support of the President, Laurent Gbagbo, and other Ivorian leaders. He also stressed that considerable challenges still lay ahead and urged the Ivorian sides to take further concrete and dynamic action to fully implement the road map for the peace process.

On 27 April, at an open meeting, the Council heard a briefing by Charles Konan Banny, Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, on the general situation in Côte d'Ivoire, which, he said, was relatively satisfactory. At the private meeting which followed, the Council members exchanged views with the Prime Minister. The members welcomed the recent positive developments in the peace process and called on all parties to fully and urgently fulfil the commitments they had made. In a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/20) adopted by the Council on the same day, the Council members commended Prime Minister Banny for his initiatives taken in cooperation with President Gbagbo, reiterated to him their full support, and invited

the Prime Minister to take immediately all the measures necessary to the simultaneous implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and identification operations.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 7 April, the Council held a brief consultation on a draft resolution concerning the temporary redeployment of military and civilian police personnel between the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) and the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), requested by the Secretary-General in his letter to the President of the Council dated 30 March 2006.

On 10 April, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1669 (2006), by which it decided to authorize the Secretary-General to redeploy temporarily a maximum of one infantry battalion, a military hospital and up to 50 military observers from ONUB to MONUC, until 1 July 2006, according to resolution 1650 (2005), and with the intention to renew such authorization according to future decisions by the Council concerning the renewal of the mandates of ONUB and MONUC.

On 25 April, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1671 (2006), authorizing the deployment of a European Union force in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a period ending four months after the date of the first round of the presidential and parliamentary elections. By that resolution, the Council authorized the EU force to take all necessary measures, within its means and capabilities, to support MONUC to stabilize a situation, in case MONUC faced serious difficulties in fulfilling its mandate within its existing capabilities; to protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence in the areas of its deployment; to contribute to airport protection in Kinshasa; to ensure the security and freedom of movement of personnel as well as the protection of the installations of the EU force; and to execute operations of limited character in order to extract individuals in danger. It urged the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the European Union to conclude a status-of-forces agreement before the deployment. It also requested the European Union to report regularly to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to the Council on the implementation of the mandate of the EU force.

Eritrea and Ethiopia

At the request of Council members, the President of the Council met with the Permanent Representative of Eritrea and the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia on 6 April, to make clear the Council's position and concern about the safety of the personnel of the United Nations Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia (UNMEE) and the resumption of the demarcation process.

On 11 April, the Council had a brief consultation on a draft resolution on UNMEE. On 13 April, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1670 (2006), by which it decided to extend the mandate of UNMEE for a period of one month, until 15 May 2006. The Council also demanded that the parties fully comply with resolution 1640 (2005). The Council affirmed its intention, in the event it determined that the parties had not demonstrated full compliance with resolution 1640 (2005) by the beginning of May 2006, to review the mandate and troop level

of UNMEE by 15 May 2006, with a view to a decision on possible adjustments of UNMEE, including inter alia a transformation into an observer mission.

Sierra Leone

As a draft resolution was proposed on 30 March for the trial of Charles Taylor, the former President of Liberia, by the Special Court for Sierra Leone in International Criminal Court premises, the Council held several discussions, including an informal consultation on 10 April to exchange views on the text. The drafting was not finalized by the end of April.

Sudan

On 11 April, the President of the Council read out a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/16) on the situation in Darfur, the Sudan. In the statement, the Council expressed its regret at the decision of the Government of National Unity to deny the entry of the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator to Darfur and called for an explanation. The Council also reiterated its full support for the inter-Sudanese peace talks on the conflict in Darfur in Abuja, endorsed the decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council that 30 April was the final deadline for reaching an agreement; demanded that all parties make the necessary efforts to reach an agreement by that date; and called on all parties to ensure a smooth and successful transfer from the African Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) to a United Nations operation. In that regard, the Council stressed that a United Nations operation would have strong African participation and character, and called for a United Nations assessment mission to Darfur by 30 April.

On 18 April, the African Union Special Envoy and Chief Mediator for the inter-Sudanese talks in Abuja, Salim Ahmed Salim, briefed the Council at an open meeting, which was followed by a private meeting. He outlined the power-sharing, wealth-sharing and security arrangement proposals and said that the mediator and the parties were working "full steam ahead" to meet a 30 April deadline for a peace agreement. The Council members urged the parties to work hard to meet the deadline for a peace accord in Darfur.

On 25 April, the President of the Council read out a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/17), reiterating the full support of the Council for the African Union-led inter-Sudanese peace talks in Abuja on the Darfur conflict, welcoming the developments so far in the negotiations and urging the parties to make speedy progress in concluding a peace accord. The Council also reaffirmed its utmost concern over the dire consequences of the prolonged conflict in Darfur for the civilian population, as well as its concern that the persisting violence might further negatively affect the rest of the country and the region, including the security of Chad.

Also on 25 April, the Council adopted resolution 1672 (2006), by 12 votes in favour with three abstentions, by which it imposed the travel restrictions and financial sanctions specified in resolution 1591 (2005) on four Sudanese individuals. Four members made statements in explanation of vote.

On 26 April, the Council heard a briefing from the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, on two options for a possible transfer of responsibilities in Darfur from AMIS to an agile, capable and highly mobile United

Nations peacekeeping force. He also told the Council about the United Nations planning efforts for Darfur, including his own travels to the Sudan and Addis Ababa. The Council members thanked the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for its efforts and expressed the hope that the assessment mission would be sent to Darfur soon. On the same day, the Council also received a briefing from the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tuliameni Kalomoh, on the latest developments in the issue of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

Chad/Sudan

On 13 April, the President of the Council read out a statement to the press, expressing deep concern regarding the deteriorating situation in Darfur and recent attacks by armed groups in Chad, condemning attacks on refugee camps and any attempt to seize power by force, and urging the Governments of the Sudan and Chad to respect the earlier peace agreement and implement commitments made. The Council also expressed support for the efforts of the African Union and urged the parties to the Abuja peace talks to conclude a peace agreement by 30 April as called for by the African Union Peace and Security Council.

On 18 April, the Council was briefed by the Secretary-General in consultations on the deteriorating relations between Chad and the Sudan. The Secretary-General noted a letter dated 13 April from Chad about the repulsion of an attack against the country's capital and the capture of rebel fighters that the Government of Chad claimed included Sudanese members. The Secretary-General said he had intensified consultations with regional and other leaders in the quest for a peaceful and negotiated outcome. The Secretary-General added that it would be helpful if the international community spoke with one voice in opposing violence and promoting dialogue in the settlement of disputes within or between States. The Council members shared the concern and indicated that they would like to receive further information from the Secretary-General on the incidents in Chad.

On 25 April, the President of the Council read out a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/19), endorsing the Secretary-General's deep concern over the political and security situation along Chad's borders with the Sudan, as well as over the possible spillover effects of those crises on neighbouring countries and the entire region. The Council called on States in the region to cooperate in ensuring their common stability, urging Chad and the Sudan to abide by their obligations under the recent agreement and to refrain from any actions that violated the border.

Western Sahara

On 25 April, during informal consultations, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations presented briefly the report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2006/249) and updated the Council on recent activities carried out by the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). He considered that the stalemate in the long-standing issue was a matter of concern. He mentioned that violations of the ceasefire by both parties had decreased since the last reporting period, but that MINURSO continued to observe violations by both parties. He also called attention to the humanitarian situation in the area. The Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, Peter van Walsum, briefed the Council on his recent activities and

observations. The Assistant Secretary-General and the Personal Envoy also responded to comments and questions from Council members.

On 28 April, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1675 (2006), by which the mandate of MINURSO was extended for a period of six months, until 31 October 2006. Eight members made statements in explanation of vote after the adoption of the resolution.

Briefings by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Defence of Uganda

On 19 April, the Council, at an open meeting, heard briefings from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Defence of Uganda, concerning the measures taken by the Government of Uganda in dealing with the humanitarian situation in northern Uganda and recent developments in the issue of the Lord's Resistance Army.

Following the open briefing, the Council held a private meeting, at which Council members welcomed the efforts made by the Government of Uganda in easing the humanitarian situation in the northern part of the country. Some members expressed their continuing concern about this issue. Members also condemned the atrocities perpetrated by LRA, and called for the international community to do more to help address the LRA issue.

Humanitarian situation in Africa

On 20 April, the Council was told by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Egeland, in closed-door consultations that the disastrous combination of a worsening humanitarian situation, government obstruction, rebel violence and weakened support of the international community had left relief operations in the Darfur region on the verge of breakdown, placing millions of people at risk. He also said that more pressure needed to be put on both the Government and the rebel movements to observe the ceasefire and reach a peace agreement. With regard to northern Uganda, he said that the situation was still bad, but he saw hope because the Government was working with the humanitarian community on a concrete action plan to improve conditions. He urged the Council to make sure this opportunity was not missed and to remain seized of the issue. Council members expressed concern over the deteriorating humanitarian situation on the ground and urged all concerned to make efforts to improve it.

Asia

Iraq

On 17 April, the Council was orally briefed at consultations by Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov, the High-level Coordinator on the issue of the repatriation or return of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals or their remains. He told the Council that, owing to the difficult security situation in Iraq, there had been few substantial developments since the submission of his last report, in December 2005. The number of remains of Kuwaiti and third-country prisoners and missing persons remained unchanged. The number of mortal remains exhumed and brought to the country was higher. The fate of some 380 Kuwaiti and third-country missing

persons was still unknown. He valued the constructive stance taken by the new Iraqi authority and the role played by ICRC. Following the consultations, the President issued a statement to the press, voicing confidence that all parties could work towards a satisfactory solution to all of the outstanding humanitarian aspects covered by Ambassador Vorontsov's mandate.

Following the briefing, the Council was also updated by the Director of the Asia and Middle East Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Lisa Buttenheim, on the Iraq-Kuwait boundary maintenance project. She described the results of the assessment mission related to the project and the process that led to its development. She also expressed the hope on behalf of the Secretary-General that the project, for the repair of the physical representation of the boundary with the participation of both Governments, would be a confidence-building measure that would contribute to the normalization of relations between the two Governments and that the parties would be able to establish their own mechanism to undertake maintenance of the boundary following implementation of the project.

On 25 April, the President issued a statement to the press, welcoming the election of the Presidency Council, Speaker and Deputy Speakers of the Council of Representatives, as well as the nomination of Jawad al-Maliki as Prime Minister, and expressing the hope that the constitutionally elected Government of Iraq could now rapidly be formed, and stressing the importance of that Government being as broad based, representative and effective as possible.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 13 April, the Council held informal consultations in which Qatar introduced a draft presidential statement on the recent escalation of violence in the Middle East. Because of different national positions, the Council failed to agree on it.

On 17 April, upon requests from Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Yemen (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference) and Malaysia (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), the Council held a public meeting on the situation in the Middle East. Thirty-three speakers addressed the Council. Most representatives condemned the suicide bombing in Tel Aviv on 17 April. Many of them expressed alarm at the recent deterioration of the situation in the region, and urged Israel and the Palestinian Authority to exercise restraint and do their utmost to curb attacks and counter-attacks that could undermine a return to the peace process. The Council failed to reach agreement on a draft statement to the press proposed by the United States.

On 24 April, at an open meeting, the Council heard the monthly briefing on the situation in the Middle East by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Alvaro de Soto. He said that the international community was witnessing a potentially dangerous deterioration of the situation in the Israel-Palestinian conflict. He also outlined three major challenges the conflict between Israel and Palestine was facing and touched briefly upon the situation in Lebanon. Afterwards, members of the Council held informal consultations and agreed in general with the assessment of the situation by the Special Coordinator.

Lebanon

On 21 April, the Council heard a briefing at an open meeting by the Prime Minster of Lebanon, Fouad Siniora, on the latest developments in his country. The Council was told that, after many years of civil strife, Israeli occupation and Syrian domination, Lebanon had made important strides on the road towards self-governance, stability, democracy and prosperity, while acknowledging that there were also other difficult issues to be taken up. The Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic also addressed the meeting, expressing regret over rumours that there was tension between the fraternal countries and stressing that relations between the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon were dictated by their history and geography and no external factor could separate them. The Council then continued the discussions with the Prime Minister at a private meeting.

On 26 April, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Terje Roed-Larsen, briefed the Council in closed-door consultations on the third semi-annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 1559 (2004) (S/2006/248). He said that the Lebanese had made significant progress towards implementing in full all provisions of resolution 1559 (2004), in particular through the agreements reached in the national dialogue in Lebanon. However, he added that resolution 1559 (2004) had not yet been implemented, for example with respect to the disbanding of all Lebanese militias, the extension of the control of the Government of Lebanon over all its territory and strict respect for the political independence of the country. He appealed to all parties concerned to comply with all requirements of resolution 1559 (2004) without delay and fully implement it, and believed that the implementation of the resolution and all other relevant resolutions should proceed in a way that would best ensure the stability and unity of Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the wider region. Afterwards, members of the Council held informal consultations.

Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 18 April, the Council held a public meeting on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, during which the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Christian Schwarz-Schilling, briefed the Council on the recent work of his office. He considered that there were three priorities in 2006 for Bosnia and Herzegovina, namely, constitutional reform, the general elections in October and the ongoing stability and association agreement negotiations with the European Union. The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Adnan Terzic, also attended the meeting and addressed the Council. He mentioned that the clear goal of Bosnia and Herzegovina was achievement of full integration of the country in the Euro-Atlantic and European communities. Both the High Representative and the Chairman raised the issue of de-certification of police officers by the International Police Task Force and called for the Council's attention. Some members made comments or raised questions, and expressed appreciation and support for the work of the High Representative.

Americas

Haiti

On 25 April, under "Other matters" during informal consultations, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed Council members on the second round of legislative elections in Haiti, held on 21 April. After the consultations, the President issued a statement to the press commending the Haitian people for their participation in the elections and welcoming the calm manner in which the voting was conducted. While acknowledging that elections were a major step in Haiti's political transition, the members of the Council recognized that addressing the country's many long-term challenges would require close cooperation between the Haitian authorities and the international community.

Other issues

International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

Following receipt of a letter dated 27 March 2006 transmitted by the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council regarding a request from the President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for the extension of the term of office of an ad litem judge, on 10 April, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1668 (2006), by which it decided that Judge Joaquín Canivell could continue to sit in the Krajišnik case beyond April 2006 and see the case through to its completion, although the cumulative period of his service in the Tribunal as an ad litem judge would then exceed three years. The President of the Council transmitted resolution 1668 (2006) to the President of the General Assembly on the same day.

Working methods of the Council

On 20 April, upon the request of the President of the Council and as agreed by all Council members, Ambassador Kenzo Oshima of Japan, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Council's Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, made a statement on the work of the Working Group to the Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters Related to the Security Council.

Ad hoc mechanism on mandate review

On 24 April, under "Other matters", at informal consultations, the Council members decided to establish an ad hoc mechanism to deal with issues concerning mandate review within the Security Council, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1). Council members also welcomed Slovakia and the United States to the positions of co-Chairmen of the ad hoc mechanism.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

On 25 April, the President of the Council read out a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/18) concerning the terrorist bombing in Dahab, Egypt, on 24 April.

In the statement, the Council condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist acts and expressed its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families, and underlined the need to bring the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these intolerable acts to justice. The Council also reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constituted one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and that any acts of terrorism were criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

On 27 April, during informal consultations, the Council heard a briefing by Ambassador Peter Burian, Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and Permanent Representative of Slovakia, on the work of the Committee. The Council also examined the report of the Committee (S/2006/257). At the formal meeting which followed, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1673 (2006) on the extension of the mandate of the Committee for a period of two years, until 27 April 2008.

On 28 April, the President of the Council circulated a letter from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) enclosing a report on the process of Iranian compliance with the steps required by the Board of Governors of IAEA as requested in the statement by the President of the Council of 29 March 2006 (S/PRST/2006/15).

Protection of civilians in armed conflict

On 28 April, after thorough discussions, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1674 (2006) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, in which it expressed its deep regret that civilians accounted for the vast majority of casualties in situations of armed conflict, recalled the particular impact which armed conflict had on women and children, including as refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as on other civilians who might have specific vulnerabilities, and stressed the protection and assistance needs of all affected civilian populations. The Council reaffirmed relevant principles and demanded relevant actions for addressing the several aspects of the issue of protection of civilians in armed conflict, as laid out in the resolution.

United Nations S/2006/296

Security Council

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16 May 2006

Original: English

Argentina, Congo, Denmark, France, Ghana, Greece, Peru, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions concerning the situation in the Sudan, in particular resolutions 1665 (2006), 1663 (2006), 1593 (2005), 1591 (2005), 1590 (2005), 1574 (2004), 1564 (2004), 1556 (2004) and the statements of its President concerning the Sudan, in particular S/PRST/2006/5 of 3 February 2006 and S/PRST/2006/21 of 9 May 2006,

Recalling also its resolutions 1612 (2005) on children and armed conflict, 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and 1674 (2006) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and 1502 (2003) on the protection of humanitarian and United Nations personnel,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, unity, independence, and territorial integrity of the Sudan, which would be unaffected by transition to a United Nations operation, as well as of all States in the region, and to the cause of peace, security and reconciliation throughout the Sudan,

Expressing its utmost concern over the dire consequences of the prolonged conflict in Darfur for the civilian population and *reiterating* in the strongest terms the need for all parties to the conflict in Darfur to put an immediate end to violence and atrocities,

Welcoming the success of the African Union-led Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on the Conflict in Darfur in Abuja, Nigeria, in particular the framework agreed between the parties for a resolution of the conflict in Darfur (the Darfur Peace Agreement),

Commending the efforts of President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, host of the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks in Abuja; President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of the Republic of Congo, Chair of the African Union (AU); Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, the African Union Special Envoy for the Darfur Talks and Chief Mediator, the respective delegations to the Darfur Talks; and the signatories to the Darfur Peace Agreement,

Stressing the importance of full and rapid implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement to restore a sustainable peace in Darfur, and *welcoming* the statement of 9 May 2006 by the representative of the Sudan at the United Nations Security

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Council Special Session on Darfur of the Government of National Unity's full commitment to implementing the Darfur Peace Agreement,

Reaffirming its concern that the persisting violence in Darfur might further negatively affect the rest of the Sudan, as well as the region, including the security of Chad,

Noting with deep concern the recent deterioration of relations between the Sudan and Chad, and *urging* the Governments of both countries to abide by their obligations under the 8 February 2006 Tripoli Agreement and to implement the confidence-building measures which have been voluntarily agreed upon,

Commending the efforts of the African Union for successful deployment of the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS), despite exceptionally difficult circumstances, and AMIS's role in reducing large-scale organized violence in Darfur, and *commending* further the efforts of Member States and regional and international organizations that have assisted AMIS in its deployment,

Taking note of the communiqués of 12 January, 10 March and 15 May 2006 of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union regarding transition of AMIS to a United Nations operation,

Stressing that a United Nations operation would have, to the extent possible, a strong African participation and character,

Welcoming the efforts of Member States and regional and international organizations to maintain and strengthen their support to AMIS and potentially to a follow-on United Nations operation on Darfur, *looking forward to, in particular*, the convening of a pledging conference in June, and *appealing to* African Union partners to provide the necessary support to AMIS to allow it to continue to perform its mandate during the transition,

Determining that the situation in the Sudan continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Calls upon* the parties to the Darfur Peace Agreement to respect their commitments and implement the agreement without delay, *urges* those parties that have not signed the agreement to do so without delay and not to act in any way that would impede implementation of the agreement, and *expresses its intention* to consider taking, including in response to a request by the African Union, strong and effective measures, such as a travel ban and assets freeze, against any individual or group that violates or attempts to block the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement;

2. *Calls upon* the African Union to agree with the United Nations, regional and international organizations, and Member States on requirements now necessary, in addition to those identified by the joint assessment mission of December 2005, to strengthen AMIS's capacity to enforce the security arrangements of the Darfur Peace Agreement, with a view to a follow-on United Nations operation in Darfur,

3. *Endorses* the decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council in its communiqué of 15 May 2006 that, in view of the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement, concrete steps should be taken to effect the transition from AMIS to a United Nations operation, *calls upon* the parties to the Darfur Peace Agreement to

facilitate and work with the African Union, the United Nations, regional and international organizations and Member States to accelerate transition to a United Nations operation, and, to this end, reiterating the requests of the Secretary-General and the Security Council, *calls for* the deployment of a joint African Union and United Nations technical assessment mission within one week of the adoption of this resolution;

4. *Stresses* that the Secretary-General should consult jointly with the African Union, in close and continuing consultation with the Security Council, and in cooperation and close consultation with the parties to the Darfur Peace Agreement, including the Government of National Unity, on decisions concerning the transition to a United Nations operation;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit recommendations to the Council within one week of the return of the joint African Union and United Nations assessment mission on all relevant aspects of the mandate of the United Nations operation in Darfur, including force structure, additional force requirements, potential troop-contributing countries and a detailed financial evaluation of future costs;

6. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations A/ES-10/331–S/2006/297

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
15 May 2006

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Identical letters dated 15 May 2006 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In grave breach of international law, including international humanitarian law, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to use excessive and indiscriminate force and to launch military attacks against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Today, Israeli occupying forces have intensified their deadly military attacks and carried out yet another raid into the villages of Qabatiya and Jenin in the West Bank, killing at least six Palestinians. At the same time, more than 16 Palestinians were injured, including seven children and a journalist. This latest Israeli crime was committed as the Palestinian people solemnly commemorated the fifty-eighth anniversary of Al-Nakba — the day the Palestinian people were uprooted from their homeland in 1948 amidst massacres, destruction and the devastation of war.

In the larger of the two raids, Israeli occupying forces stormed into the village of Qabatiya in the northern West Bank and surrounded a house where Elias Ashkar was seeking shelter. After a barrage of gunfire, an Israeli bulldozer flattened the house, killing him instantly. In the same military attack, at least five others were killed and many were injured. Also, in the neighbouring town of Jenin, Israeli occupying forces fatally shot a Palestinian security official.

The international community must take action to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its military attacks and to scrupulously abide by international law, particularly the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Lack of firm action by the international community will only allow Israel to carry on with impunity its illegal policies and practices against the Palestinian civilian population, leading to even more death, injury and loss for the Palestinian people.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 240 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-

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S/2000/921) to 5 May 2006 (A/ES-10/330-S/2006/279), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my profound regret to inform you that, since our last letter to you, at least six more Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to **3,850**. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are listed in the annex to the present letter.)

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 15 May 2006 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem*

(Monday, 14 May 2006)

Monday, 14 May 2006

1. Elias Ashkar
2. Jihad Kameel
3. Mujahid Hanaysheh
4. Thair Hanaysheh
5. Ali Jabareen
6. Mutasem Ja'ar

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* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 3,850.

United Nations S/2006/298

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 May 2006

Original: English

Denmark, France, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on Lebanon, in particular resolutions 1559 (2004), 425 and 426 (1978), resolution 520 (1982) and resolution 1655 (2006), as well as the statements of its President on the situation in Lebanon, in particular the statements of 18 June 2000 (S/PRST/2000/21), of 19 October 2004 (S/PRST/2004/36), of 4 May 2005 (S/PRST/2005/17) and of 23 January 2006 (S/PRST/2006/3),

Reiterating its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized borders,

Noting positively that further significant progress has been made towards implementing in full all provisions of resolution 1559 (2004), in particular through the Lebanese national dialogue, but noting also with regret that other provisions of resolution 1559 have not yet been fully implemented, namely the disbanding and disarming of Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias, the extension of the control of the Government of Lebanon over all its territory, the strict respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon, and free and fair presidential elections conducted according to the Lebanese constitutional rules, without foreign interference and influence,

Noting with concern the conclusion of the Secretary-General's report (S/2006/248) that there had been movements of arms into Lebanese territory for militias over the last six months,

Expressing full support for the Lebanese National Dialogue and commending all Lebanese parties for its conduct and for the consensus reached in this context on important matters,

Having heard the Prime Minister of Lebanon's address to the Security Council on 21 April 2006 (S/PV.5417),

1. *Welcomes* the third semi-annual report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council of 18 April 2006 on the implementation of resolution 1559 (2004) (S/2006/248);

2. *Reiterates* its call for the full implementation of all requirements of resolution 1559 (2004);

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3. *Reiterates also* its call on all concerned States and parties as mentioned in the report, to cooperate fully with the Government of Lebanon, the Security Council and the Secretary-General to achieve this goal;

4. *Strongly encourages* the Government of Syria to respond positively to the request made by the Government of Lebanon, in line with the agreements of the Lebanese national dialogue, to delineate their common border, especially in those areas where the border is uncertain or disputed and to establish full diplomatic relations and representation, noting that such measures would constitute a significant step towards asserting Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence and improving the relations between the two countries, thus contributing positively to the stability in the region, and urges both parties to make efforts through further bilateral dialogue to this end, bearing in mind that the establishment of diplomatic relations between States, and of permanent diplomatic missions, takes place by mutual consent;

5. *Commends* the Government of Lebanon for undertaking measures against movements of arms into Lebanese territory and calls on the Government of Syria to take similar measures;

6. *Welcomes* the decision of the Lebanese national dialogue to disarm Palestinian militias outside refugee camps within six months, supports its implementation and calls for further efforts to disband and disarm all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias and to restore fully the Lebanese Government's control over all Lebanese territory;

7. *Reiterates* its support to the Secretary-General and his Special envoy in their efforts and dedication to facilitate and assist in the implementation of all provisions of resolution 1559 (2004);

8. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.